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WEATHERIZATION DAY 2003 PROCLAIMED BY GOVERNOR OWENS
"Energy Efficiency Is The Best Defense Against Rising Energy Costs for Coloradans"

Denver, CO October 22, 2003 – October is Energy Awareness month and Governor Bill Owens proclaimed October 22, as "Weatherization Day" to raise awareness of the benefits created by the program that provides free energy efficiency services to income-qualified recipients. The program is funded through the US Department of Energy, Colorado Department of Human Services, and utilities such as Xcel Energy, Inc. to provide energy assistance to low-income families.

"The best defense against higher gas prices is a properly weatherized and insulated house. This is a real solution to the problem of higher gas prices, not just a government subsidy to pay the higher gas bills. This is money spent back in groceries, clothing and food for the family," said Governor Owens in the Proclamation.

Governor Owens' proclamation highlighted Xcel Energy's involvement with the Weatherization: "Over the past 10 years, Xcel has contributed over \$26 million, weatherized nearly 27,000 homes, bringing over \$19 million in cumulative energy savings. Xcel's participation has made it possible for Colorado families to conserve energy and reduce the cost for heating, cooling, and electricity."

After weatherization, families experience an average energy use reduction of 20 percent or more. However, one in four families save 37 percent in bills. With the rising prices in natural gas, implementing successful energy conservation programs are essential. Each year, Colorado households experience improved energy efficiency, financial, health and safety gains through weatherization services.

Sunpower, Denver's local weatherization agency, is one of Colorado's eight agencies with professionally trained crews that use computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic equipment to identify energy-saving strategies in single-family, multi-family, and mobile homes. Cost-effective weatherization measures and those that are essential for health and safety are then performed, including, but not limited to, carbon monoxide testing, installation of insulation, repair and replacement of furnaces or boilers.

Energy Saving Partners runs Colorado's Weatherization program, through the Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC). Two statewide events will be held for Weatherization Day: October 22 in Denver and October 28, in Grand Junction.

For more information on the events or how to qualify for weatherization services, call toll-free 1-888-HEATLINE or in Denver, call Sun Power at (303) 382-1514.

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